

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs on page 2, starting at line 28 as follows:

Figure 2 schematically shows a second exemplary embodiment of an equipment utilizing the method of the invention, and

Figure 3 schematically shows the operational principles of the method of the invention[[.]];

Figure 4 is a perspective view schematically showing a first method of joining ends of the slit webs;

Figure 5 is an end view of the joined ends according to the method illustrated in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a top perspective view schematically showing a second method of joining ends of the slit webs; and

Figure 7 is a bottom perspective view schematically showing the joined ends according to the second method.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, starting at line 22 as follows:

The ends of the slit webs must be joined together for the slit webs to form a continuous whole. In principle, two alternative methods can be used to join the webs. The first method, illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, involves joining the forward/tail end of the outermost web to the forward/tail end of the adjacent web, whose forward/ tail end is joined to the forward/tail end of the next web, the process continuing until all webs are joined to a continuous whole whose length

